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Strange and VVonderful News:

OR,

The Full and True Relation

OF THE

MIRACULOUS INSPIRATION

OF

Charles Bennet;

BORN AT

Manchester in Lancashire:

VVho being but THREE Years of Age,

Speaks without the Least Instruction:

English, *Latine*, *Greek*, and *Hebrew*;

so Perfect and Authentickly, the like thereof

hath not been heard of in any Age.

Being now to be Seen & Discourſed withal at the *Bear*-Inn in *Weſt-Smithfield*.

The Truth of which many Thouſand Credible Spectators can Atteſt: This Deponent being an Eye and Ear Witneſs to what is here Inserted.

As alſo the Account of his *Earneſt Deſire* to Speak with

HIS MAJESTY:

The which he Effected, and ſome Words he Spake, on *Munday* the 30th. of *June* 1679. Being brought into the ROYAL PRESENCE.

With many other Circumſtances moſt Wonderful and Strange to Relate.

London, Printed for *F. F.* in the Year, 1679.

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VVho being but THREE Years of Age,

Speaks without the Least Instruction:

English, Latine, Greek, and Hebrew;

so Perfect and Authentickly, the like thereof

hath not been heard of in any Age.

Being now to be Seen & Discoursed withal at the *Bear-Inn* in *West-Smithfield*.

The Truth of which many Thousand Credible Spectators can Attest: This Deponent being an Eye and Ear Witness to what is here Inserted.

As also the Account of his *Earnest Desire* to Speak with

HIS MAJESTY:

The which he Effected, and some Words he Spake, on *Monday* the 30th. of *June* 1679. Being brought into the ROYAL PRESENCE.

With many other Circumstances most Wonderful and Strange to Relate.

London, Printed for *F. F.* in the Year, 1679.

BRITISH MUSEUM

Strange and Wonderful News, Or,

The Miraculous Inspiration of *Charles Bennit*, a Child of Three Years of Age, Born at *Manchester* in *Lancashire*, &c.

STrange and Wonderful are the Works of *God*, in all that his Omnipotency designs, and when he pleases can declare it in the meanest Work his Hand has formed, as our Blessed Saviours Sacred *Evangelist* explains; and likewise *David* the Princely Prophet, *That out of the Mouths of Babes and Sucklings, he has perfected Praise*; and can extoll the mighty power of his Eternal self, as he himself shall think most fit, the which may in this proceeding Narration be produced to all as followeth, and noted to after Ages, as a Wonder of the times, and Prophetically mysterious.

A Male Child about Three Years of Age, the Son of a *Linnen-Weaver* of *Manchester* in *Lancashire*, namely *Phillip Bennit*, being a Man of mean Education and Fortune; his Son being born on or near the 17*th*. of *June*, in the year of Mans Redemption, 1676. and after was Christened about the 28*th*. of the same month, re-

ceiving in his Baptism the name of *Charles*; the Child growing and continuing in a good state of bodily health, was often observed by his Parents to be more serious and considerate then appertained to one of his age, many times musing, and seeming to deliberate with himself; the which at first they did not so fully regard, but after he could go alone, and began to speak, (the which he exercised sooner then usual) many grave Sentences were observed to proceed from him; But the first Discovery of the profound Knowledge that for a long time had absconded in his Microcosmick structure, was about a month or Six Weeks since: his Father after Divine Service takeing a Bible, and reading a certain Chapter in one of the *Evangelists*, by accident, or through ignorance omitted, or preposterously read a certain Verse or Sentence: the Child aforesaid being present, reproved him of his error, and told him there was no such sentence in the Scripture, or Word of God: at which his Father being in a consternation, casting his eyes upon the Text where he had read, found himself mistaken, whereupon he examined him how he knew, having never seen nor known the Scriptures as to the Practick part: to

whom

whom the aforesaid *Charles* most discreetly replyed, *That he could, and in his conceit had often conversed therein, and if occasion required, could Read them in* Latine, Greek, *and* Hebrew. This raised the primal Character of the Child's more then ordinary perfection, sent his fame abroad, so that many hundreds from Towns and Villages adjacent to the place of his Nativity, came flocking to take a view of him, and to discourse in all the Tongues premissed, who did as freely Answer, to the great astonishment of all that heard: for many Ministers and Learned Men were likewise curious to satisfie themselves in the certainty hereof, and when they had beheld and found it true, they went away with admiration. After some time his Fame was noised in the great Metropolis of *London*, to which by the advice and perswasion of some of their Friends, his Parents brought him about Five days since; and coming up by the *Warwick-shire* Carryer, they Inned or took up their lodging at the *Bear*, Inn in *West-smith-field*: where no sooner was the rumour of their being there spread abroad, but numbers flock'd to see a wonder they had heard of some time since: he being accompanied with his Parents in a very spacious Room on the left

hand

hand going into the Inn aforesaid, where many Ministers and others discoursed and questioned with him on *Saturday* the 28*th*. of which this Deponent was one who did both reason with him in *English*, *Latine*, *Greek*, and *Hebrew*; to which he *soon* answered, and rightly expounded and Interpret each Word a Sentence; the truth of which, this Deponent is ready to Justifie upon Oath if need requireth: Some of which Words I shall here (for the more perfect satisfaction of the Reader) Insert, *Imprimis*, he was askt *Latine*, *Greek*, and *Hebrew* for a Man, to which he as readily Replyed, *Vir*, *Anthropos*, *Addam*; For a Woman, *Mulier*, *Genue*, *Eveve*; For Boy, *Pueri*, A Girl, *Puella*; his Fore-head, *Fronte*,, A Hat, *Gallerus*. As likewise many other words and Propositions, too tedious here to Insert. His Parents take no Money at the Door, but are willing to accept the free Benevolence of Gentlemen: The Child will not accept any Gift, be it Money or any other Present; but if it be forced upon him, he will absolutely refuse and throw it away, shewing how little he regards such transitory Trash, the which is no ways permanent. The Child had, as his Parents report, an earnest desire many weeks

before

before he came to *London*, to speak with his Majesty, and that he had some business of Importance to declare to his Sacred self: the which they much Noted by his earnest and often repeating the same desire, the which was, as some report, to speak Three Words, and after the deliverance of which, he Prophetically foretells his Dissolution as to this life. In the space of Nine days, but this is not certainly known, but sure I am, that upon Notice of the said Child's being in *Smithfield*, his Majesty was graciously pleased to send for him to his royal Pallace of *White-Hall*, on Munday the 30th of this instant *June*, 79; who in a Coach waits His Majesties good pleasure: and as it is credibly reported, most fluently answered to several Questions, to the great admiration of all that were present; but what was there said is not as yet precisely known. He reads English perfecter then any Youth far above his Age, although never so well instructed.

The Truth of what I have here proposed, can be witnessed by many Thousand Worthy Gentlemen and Gentlewomen, many whose names I could here insert if occasion required: But for your further satisfaction, if you send to

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the *Bare* Inn as aforesaid, you shall be fully informed of all these particulars, and a number more, the which would tire your patience to peruse. As for the Stature of the said *Charles Bennet*, he is not above two foot and 3 Inches, being of a ruddy and amable Complexion, full ey'd, with a sharp and piercing sight. Dark brown Hair, and round Visaged, seeming very vehement in the delivery of his Speeches, with a manly voice, but something thick in the delivery of his words. His Parents were but mean People, getting their Livings by their daily labours and Imployments. This is no fallacy nor premeditated Instruction, taught by the device nor Art of men, for was it so, the Child could not be perfect in every cross question, the which amongst the learnedest of men requires some deliberation; then what can we imagine less then that those parts and early Dotilities, proceeded by Divine Inspiration: and who can tell what Mysteries *Omnipotence* may veile that tender Form, the which in time may shine more perfect to the World, till when let us admire, and with the Prophet say, *This is the Lords doing and is Marvellous in our Eyes*, &c.

FINIS.